

## CLAIMS

## I CLAIM:

1. A catheter assembly comprising a tubular body having a proximal end and a distal end and a thermoresponsive distal tip portion fixed to said distal end of said  
5 catheter.
2. The catheter assembly of claim 1 wherein said thermoresponsive material is harder at temperatures below a critical temperature and softer at temperatures above said critical temperature.
3. The catheter assembly of claim 2 wherein said critical temperature is  
10 approximately 31°C.
4. The catheter assembly of claim 2 wherein said distal tip portion has a Shore hardness of 72-75 D at temperatures below said critical temperature for facilitating the pushing of said catheter into an introducing catheter.
5. The catheter assembly of claim 2 wherein said distal tip portion has a Shore  
15 hardness of 32-35 D at temperatures above said critical temperatures.
6. The catheter assembly of claim 1 wherein said distal tip portion is made of a thermoresponsive polyurethane.
7. The catheter assembly of claim 1 wherein said distal tip portion has a radiopaque material therein.
- 20 8. The catheter assembly of claim 1 wherein said tubular body is coated with a jacket made of said thermoresponsive material,
9. The catheter assembly of claim 1 wherein said tubular body is a wire braided body comprising an inner tubular extrusion, a wire braid on the outer surface of said inner tubular extrusion and an outer tubular extrusion extruded over said wire  
25 braid.
10. The catheter assembly of claim 1 wherein said distal end of said catheter is tapered and said distal tip portion is welded on or molded on said tapered distal end of said catheter.

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